

For rollcall vote 206, on motion to refer the resolution, H. Res. 1255, "Raising a question of the privileges of the House," I would have voted aye;

For rollcall vote 207, on agreeing to the amendment, H.R. 4715, "Shea-Porter of New Hampshire Amendment," I would have voted aye;

For rollcall vote 208, on motion to recommit with instructions, "To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes," I would have voted no;

For rollcall 209 on passage of H.R. 4715, "To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes," I would have voted aye;

For rollcall vote 210 on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1242, "Congratulating the Duke University men's basketball team for winning the 2010 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship," I would have voted aye;

For rollcall vote 211, H.R. 4851 on motion to concur in the Senate Amendment H.R. 4851, "Continuing Extension Act," I would have voted aye.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I hereby notify the House of my intention to offer a resolution as a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of my resolution is as follows:

Whereas, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct initiated an investigation into allegations related to earmarks and campaign contributions in the Spring of 2009.

Whereas, on December 2, 2009, reports and findings in seven separate matters involving the alleged connection between earmarks and campaign contributions were forwarded by the Office of Congressional Ethics to the Standards Committee.

Whereas, on February 26, 2010, the Standards Committee made public its report on the matter wherein the Committee found, though a widespread perception exists among corporations and lobbyists that campaign contributions provide a greater chance of obtaining earmarks, there was no evidence that Members or their staff considered contributions when requesting earmarks.

Whereas, the Committee indicated that, with respect to the matters forwarded by the Office of Congressional Ethics, neither the evidence cited in the OCE's findings nor the evidence in the record before the Standards Committee provided a substantial reason to believe that violations of applicable standards of conduct occurred.

Whereas, the Office of Congressional Ethics is prohibited from reviewing activities taking place prior to March of 2008 and lacks the authority to subpoena witnesses and documents.

Whereas, for example, the Office of Congressional Ethics noted that in some instances documents were redacted or specific information was not provided and that, in at least one instance, they had reason to believe a witness withheld information requested and did not identify what was being withheld.

Whereas, the Office of Congressional Ethics also noted that they were able to inter-

view only six former employees of the PMA Group, with many former employees refusing to consent to interviews and the OCE unable to obtain evidence within PMA's possession.

Whereas, Roll Call noted that "the committee report was five pages long and included no documentation of any evidence collected or any interviews conducted by the committee, beyond a statement that the investigation 'included extensive document reviews and interviews with numerous witnesses.'" (Roll Call, March 8, 2010)

Whereas, it is unclear whether the Standards Committee included in their investigation any activities that occurred prior to 2008.

Whereas, it is unclear whether the Standards Committee interviewed any Members in the course of their investigation.

Whereas, it is unclear whether the Standards Committee, in the course of their investigation, initiated their own subpoenas or followed the Office of Congressional Ethics recommendations to issue subpoenas. Therefore be it:

Resolved, That not later than seven days after the adoption of this resolution, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall report to the House of Representatives, with respect to the activities addressed in its report of February 26, 2010, (1) how many witnesses were interviewed, (2) how many, if any, subpoenas were issued in the course of their investigation, and (3) what documents were reviewed and their availability for public review.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Arizona will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

□ 1915

VETERANS' LEGISLATION

(Mr. MCNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of our Nation's veterans and to thank Chairman FILNER for his leadership on veterans' issues. Tomorrow, the House is expected to consider S. 1963, major legislation to improve the VA which includes legislation I introduced, the Caring for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury Act.

In order to meet the treatment and rehabilitation needs of veterans suffering from traumatic brain injury, my bill establishes a Committee on Care of Veterans with TBI, which has become the signature wound of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

We must continue our efforts to provide veterans and their families with

the best possible health care. The Committee on Care of Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury will help provide improved TBI education and training programs for VA health professionals which will benefit our men and women returning from combat.

I want to thank all of the men and women serving in our Armed Forces as well as our Nation's veterans.

JERUSALEM

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we should not be doubling down on a failed Middle East policy by pressuring Israel to make further concessions, including on Jerusalem, Israel's undivided capital.

Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel recently wrote:

"Jerusalem is above politics. It belongs to the Jewish people, and it is much more than a city. It is what binds one Jew to another in a way that remains hard to explain. Today, for the first time in history, Jews, Christians and Muslims all may freely worship at their shrines. And, contrary to certain media reports, Jews, Christians and Muslims are allowed to build their homes anywhere in the city. The anguish over Jerusalem is not about real estate but about memory."

What is the solution, Mr. Speaker? Well, certainly not more pressure on our friend and our trusted ally Israel, while not holding others accountable for their actions.

HONORING ELK COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, back in March a small foundation in Elk County, Pennsylvania gave its millionth dollar to a local organization and celebrated its 10th year of existence.

The Elk County Community Foundation has grown during its 10 years to encompass 68 permanent charitable funds. By managing these funds, the foundation improves the quality of life in Elk County and the surrounding area. The revenues earned by the various funds provide grants and scholarships to nonprofit organizations and to individuals.

On their anniversary, the foundation celebrated at the Central Hose Company in Ridgway, where the Ridgway Volunteer Fire Department recently received a grant to help with the purchase of new equipment for its tanker truck.

It is this type of generosity for which the foundation is known. Paula Fritz-Eddy, foundation executive director,

says that every fund has a story—from nursing to music to rewarding scholarship.

I would like to commend foundation president Judith Manno Stager and all associated with the foundation for their phenomenal work in helping both donors and recipients.

I wish them another productive 10 years of service.

RULEMAKING REGARDING HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we were to have a hearing in my Committee on Energy and Commerce about the companies in the United States that restated their earnings as a result of us passing the misguided health care bill last month. These companies were performing under requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission and under the Federal Accounting Standards Board.

Some of the restatement of earnings you see here on this poster, the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce thought that these restatement of earnings were simply done to embarrass the President on the signing of the bill. In fact, this was a loophole that was closed by a Senator on Christmas Eve and the loophole was to undo the Federal Government and these companies partnering together in order to prevent retirees from losing prescription drug benefits. It was a win-win situation for the employer and for the retiree.

Unfortunately, there are many things like this in this health care bill that are going to be coming forward. This hearing was canceled after it was pointed out to the chairman that in fact these companies were just simply restating earnings as they were required to do under the law. But many of the other provisions in this bill are going to be coming out over the next several months. We're just now entering into phase B, the rulemaking part, over at Health and Human Services.

It behooves this Congress to exercise its oversight authority over the Department of Health and Human Services as these rules are written.

RECOGNIZING ISRAEL IN HONOR OF HER 62ND BIRTHDAY

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize our great ally, Israel, on the 62nd anniversary of their nation.

As the standard bearer for democracy in the Middle East, Israel is of critical importance to the United States. Since the declaration of the State of Israel in 1948, they have consistently shown the power of democracy in a very volatile part of the world.

Their achievements cannot be understated. The per capita annual GDP in Israel is nearly \$30,000 and the average life span is over 80 years. Israel consistently keeps its citizens safe, despite the security threats that occur on a daily basis. The fact that Israel continues to grow in population at an annual increase of 1.8 percent is a strong signal of the nation's strength.

So today let us recognize Israel and their many achievements and let us always remember the unending bond between the United States and Israel that must continue to be protected.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF WEST FORK FIRE CHIEF MITCH MCCORKLE

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mitch McCorkle, who has devoted his life to protecting the citizens of West Fork, Arkansas and is now retiring after 50 years of serving as the only fire chief in West Fork.

During his time as fire chief, Mitch has demonstrated his ability to innovate time and time again by building fire trucks that are uniquely suited to the landscape of northwest Arkansas. The longest serving fire chief in all of Arkansas, Mitch was a visionary in terms of what can be done with a volunteer department. Mitch's pride in doing his job and serving his community is an example to be followed and has made West Fork a better place.

West Fork will undoubtedly be losing an amazing fire chief. I commend Mitch for his service as the fire chief of West Fork, his passion for protecting our citizens, and his continued commitment to our safety. I wish him continued success in his endeavors and today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mitch McCorkle, a fire chief whose continued devotion to the Third District of Arkansas has not gone unnoticed and will never be forgotten.

REGARDING THE HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I asked if I could borrow this display here which really should have minuses in front of all these numbers because essentially these companies had to file in their financial reports the losses that they will incur immediately as a result of the passage and signing into law of the health care reform bill.

Now that's bad enough, but even worse was the initial response by this House to them following the law. And it was to receive a letter commanding their CEOs come before a committee of this House, a subcommittee of this

House, with all of their internal documents as to how they could come up with this position.

Now think about it. This is one of the concerns many of us expressed about having the government take over medical care in this country to the extent this bill allows it: if you criticize the government, you will be called to heel before a committee of the House.

Now it is true that that call has been removed, but they have received a letter which told them the Congress will continue watching. This is not democracy. This is not independence. This is what we fought against.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

A "NEW START" TOWARD A NUCLEAR WEAPON-FREE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, for those of us who want to live in a world without nuclear weapons, there was very little good news, very little to celebrate over the last decade or so. The previous administration showed barely any interest in eradicating the nuclear threat. But now finally, with the recently signed START treaty between the United States and Russia, there is cause for optimism and hope for further progress.

In negotiating this agreement, I am pleased that President Obama has embraced the principles of the "no-nukes" resolution, House Resolution 333 that I have introduced in the Congress, and the SMART Security approach I've championed for years.

Much of the attention paid to arms control issues focuses on North Korea and the looming possibility of a nuclear threat from Iran. And of course these are gravely important matters to grapple with. But the fact is that more than 90 percent of the world's nuclear capability rests with the two Cold War superpowers. So a serious commitment to nonproliferation must begin with a bilateral U.S.-Russia approach.

This pact, the New START, mandates a 30 percent reduction in the allowed number of deployed strategic warheads, from a maximum of 2,200 down to 1,550 for each country, the most significant step toward disarmament in years. The treaty is far from perfect. In fact, I am disappointed that it places no restrictions on the development of missile defense programs which have delivered little bang for the taxpayer buck over the last several decades. But it is crucial that our Senate colleagues move quickly to ratify this treaty. Hopefully the partisan obstructionism that we've seen over and over again on the other